



A Guided Prayer Through Ruth for Sojourners

The book of Ruth begins with famine, migration, bereavement, and uncertainty. Naomi leaves her homeland in search of food. Ruth later crosses a border and enters Bethlehem as a foreigner—a Moabite woman dependent upon the compassion of others.

Yet Ruth is more than a stranger in need. She is a woman of courage, faithfulness, wisdom, and initiative. God receives her, works through her, and places her within the family line of David and, ultimately, Jesus.

Her story can help us recognize something Scripture says about all God's people: we are "strangers and sojourners" on the earth, longing for the better country and lasting home God has promised.

As we pray, we ask God to give us compassion for displaced people, love for our neighbors, courage to welcome the sojourner, and opportunities to bear faithful witness to the hope of Jesus Christ.

Teach Us to Love Our Neighbor

Read: Leviticus 19:33–34, Deuteronomy 10:17–19, and Luke 10:25–37

Pray:

- You are the great, mighty, and awesome God who shows no partiality. I praise you for your steadfast love, evidenced in _____.
- You execute justice for the vulnerable and love the sojourner, giving food and clothing. Provide _____ for _____.
- You command us not to mistreat the stranger but to love the sojourner as ourselves. Forgive me for _____.
- As the Samaritan was moved with compassion and drew near, move me to draw near to _____.
- Show me how to bind wounds, bear costs, and show mercy by _____.
- Help our congregation "go and do likewise" through _____.

Remember the Sojourner

Read: Ruth 1:1–18 and Ruth 2:8–12

Pray:

- Lord, deal kindly with _____, as you dealt kindly with Ruth and Naomi.
- For those who have left their people and homeland, provide _____.
- As Ruth found refuge under your wings, shelter _____.
- Give protection, provision, and perseverance to those who _____.
- Give us Ruth's steadfast love so that we may faithfully walk alongside _____.

Protect the Vulnerable and Establish Justice

Read: Psalm 146:5–9 and Isaiah 58:6–12

Pray:

- You watch over the sojourner and lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over and strengthen _____.
- Set free those bound by _____.
- Loose the bonds of wickedness and break the yoke of _____.
- Help us share our bread with _____ and bring the vulnerable into safety through _____.
- Let your light break forth like the dawn in _____.
- Make your church a repairer of broken walls and a restorer of safe paths by _____.

Make Us Salt, Light, and the Aroma of Christ

Read: Matthew 5:13–16, 2 Corinthians 2:14–17, and Colossians 4:2–6

Pray:

- Make us the salt of the earth in _____.
- Let our light shine through _____, so that others may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.
- Help me spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ through our relationship with _____.
- Make our church the aroma of Christ among _____.
- Open a door for the Word so that we may clearly proclaim the mystery of Christ to _____.
- Help us walk in wisdom toward outsiders by _____.
- Let our speech be gracious and seasoned with salt when we speak with _____.

Lead Us Toward Our Eternal Home

Read: Hebrews 11:13–16 and Revelation 21:1–5

Pray:

- Teach us to live faithfully as strangers and sojourners, especially when _____.
- We confess that we often seek an earthly homeland or security in _____.
- As we hear the stories of those searching for home, deepen our longing for _____.
- Dwell with _____ and wipe every tear from their eyes.
- We long for the day when death, mourning, crying, and pain will be no more. Today we especially grieve _____.
- You are making all things new. Bring renewal and hope to _____.

Closing Prayer

God of every nation and every neighbor, help us welcome the sojourner, love our neighbors, and show the compassion of Christ. Make us salt in the earth, light in the darkness, and the aroma of Christ in our community. Open doors for the gospel, and draw people to the eternal hope found in Jesus. As we walk beside those searching for an earthly home, deepen our longing for the heavenly city you have prepared. Amen.

Resources:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/>
- <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>
- <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker>